

**Itani, G.**

Center for Marine Environmental Studies, Ehime University, 3 Bunkyo-cho,  
Matsuyama 790-8577, Japan

**Host specialization in symbiotic animals associated with thalassinidean shrimps in Japan**

Studies on species interaction concerning thalassinidean shrimps has been focused mainly on the effects of bioturbation on community composition. Although thalassinidean shrimps might reduce the abundance of macro-infauna in soft sediment community, shrimp burrows are inhabited by a variety of organisms that would otherwise not be able to live. Thalassinidean shrimps themselves also serve as hosts for ectosymbiotic animals. In this contribution, I present results of studies on host utilization pattern of animals associated with Upogebiidae, Callianassidae and Laomedidae in Japan. Symbiotic animals studied are *Acmaeopleura* crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda: Grapsidae), bopyrids (Crustacea: Isopoda: Bopyridae), *Peregrinamor* bivalves (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Galeommatidae) and a bivalve *Cryptomya truncata* (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Myidae). I also show adaptations of these animals to symbioses with the shrimps.